

# Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

Carol Channing's hotel sitting room looked like a scene from "You Can't Take It With You." The bubbly, strawberry-haired star of "Hello, Dolly!" was preparing to leave San Francisco for her opening in St. Louis.

In one corner her son, Channing, was playing with an elaborate television tape recorder and re-running scenes from last week's "Bonanza." Her husband, Charles Lowe, was checking box office figures for the show which is already sold out in St. Louis, Oklahoma City and Chicago.

In the center of the room stood Miss Channing — all eyeballs and elbows — being fitted for some new clothes by her television designer, whose name I did not catch because he had a mouth full of pins. Occasionally a blonde secretary zeroed-in to give weather reports and bring news and food from the outside world.

"YOU ASKED me how was the new theater in Los Angeles; well, oh my goodness, it's BIG," said Miss Channing, rolling her big eyes toward the ceiling. "Did you ever open a new hospital? Well, once in Miami I was the very first patient in a hospital — yes I was — and it was a very nice hospital. I'm sure, but everything was new. The air conditioning didn't work, and when they finally got it started it was so strong it kept blowing the sheets off the bed."

"In Los Angeles during the big parade number the fire alarm went off backstage and I kept thinking all during my song 'Now, Carol, keep your head. The aisles will have to be cleared and oh what will happen to all those girls in the sequins. They'll just go RIGHT UP!" Well they couldn't turn it off and final-

ly had to tear it out of the wall. The audience thought it was part of the show!

"NOW, WILL I ever find another 'Hello, Dolly!' You asked that. Well, I won't know for a long while because I'm going into television in 1967 when my 'Dolly' contract is up. Then I'm signed with General Foods for a TV series. We've already taped a TV special that will be shown on CBS Feb. 18. It's with David McCallum. He's one of the men from UNCLE. And he's a love. He's Richard Burton 15 years ago.

"Do you remember when we watched the first Fred Astaire Show at your house? Well I said right then and there, THOSE are the people I want to do a television show for me and by Golly they did. Hermes Pan was the choreographer and Bud Yorkin was producer and director."

MISS CHANNING'S newest possession is a Sony home television recorder that makes tape copies of programs for later viewing.

"Do you realize that I hadn't seen a nighttime television show since I started 'Hello Dolly!'? That's true of all theater people. We never see any of the shows that everyone is talking about. Now with this sweet little machine I can tape shows and see them later. The other night I had a chance to see the Barbra Streisand Show. It was wonderful," she continued.

The set is heavy but as compact as a suitcase. It has a small-screen TV viewer and a real TV camera which makes 'Home movies' for immediate playback. There's even a timer that will tape shows while Miss Channing is at the theater.

"It may be bigger than all of us," said Lowe. It is right now.

Army Pvt. David R. Whittle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roland R. Whittle of 2212 1/2 Rockefeller Lane, Redondo Beach, was assigned to the 503d Transportation Company in Germany, Dec. 8.

Whittle is a truck driver in the company. He entered the Army last July and completed basic training at Fort Polk, La.

The 18-year-old soldier attended Redondo Union High School.

Seaman Radioman Richard Webster, USCG, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Webster of 3765 W. 176 St., has graduated from the 24-week Radioman School at the Coast Guard Training Center, Groton, Conn.

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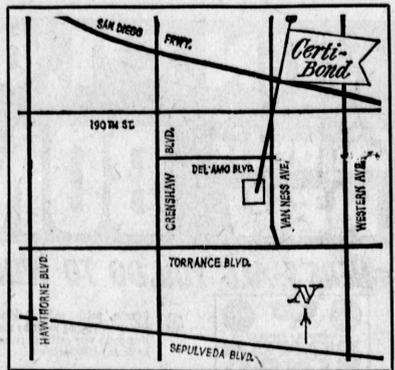
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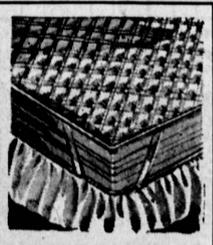
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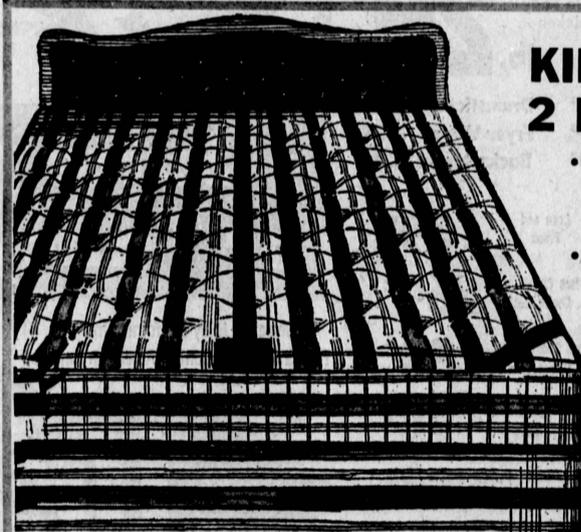
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